

# Grade 8 Sample Test Prompt

## Word Choice

People run for elected offices, from the President of the United States to class officers in a school. You are running for class president for your grade level.

Write an essay convincing your classmates that you are the best choice for president.

Your writing should:

- Have an introduction, body, and conclusion.
- State reasons why you would make a good class president.
- Include details that support your reasons.

Remember to edit for spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.

# AIMS Six Trait Analytic Writing Rubric – Official Scoring Guide

## WORD CHOICE

<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Words convey the intended message in an exceptionally interesting, precise, and natural way appropriate to audience and purpose. The writer employs a rich, broad range of words, which have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• accurate, strong, specific words; powerful words energize the writing.</li> <li>• fresh, original expression; slang, if used, seems purposeful and is effective.</li> <li>• vocabulary that is striking and varied, but that is natural and not overdone.</li> <li>• ordinary words used in an unusual way.</li> <li>• words that evoke strong images; figurative language may be used.</li> </ul>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Words convey the intended message in an interesting, precise, and natural way appropriate to audience and purpose. The writer employs a broad range of words which have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• accurate, specific words; word choices energize the writing.</li> <li>• fresh, vivid expression; slang, if used, seems purposeful and is effective.</li> <li>• vocabulary that may be striking and varied, but that is natural and not overdone.</li> <li>• ordinary words used in an unusual way.</li> <li>• words that evoke clear images; figurative language may be used.</li> </ul>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Words effectively convey the intended message. The writer employs a variety of words that are functional and appropriate to audience and purpose. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• words that work but do not particularly energize the writing.</li> <li>• expression that is functional; however, slang, if used, does not seem purposeful and is not particularly effective.</li> <li>• attempts at colorful language that may occasionally seem overdone.</li> <li>• occasional overuse of technical language or jargon.</li> <li>• rare experiments with language; however, the writing may have some fine moments and generally avoids clichés.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Language is quite ordinary, lacking interest, precision and variety, or may be inappropriate to audience and purpose in places. The writer does not employ a variety of words, producing a sort of “generic” paper filled with familiar words and phrases. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• words that work, but that rarely capture the reader’s interest.</li> <li>• expression that seems mundane and general; slang, if used, does not seem purposeful and is not effective.</li> <li>• attempts at colorful language that seem overdone or forced.</li> <li>• words that are accurate for the most part, although misused words may occasionally appear, technical language or jargon may be overused or inappropriately used.</li> <li>• reliance on clichés and overused expressions.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Language is monotonous and/or misused, detracting from the meaning and impact. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• words that are colorless, flat or imprecise.</li> <li>• monotonous repetition or overwhelming reliance on worn expressions that repeatedly distract from the message.</li> <li>• images that are fuzzy or absent altogether.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>The writing shows an extremely limited vocabulary or is so filled with misuses of words that the meaning is obscured. Only the most general kind of message is communicated because of vague or imprecise language. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• general, vague words that fail to communicate.</li> <li>• an extremely limited range of words.</li> <li>• words that simply do not fit the text; they seem imprecise, inadequate, or just plain wrong.</li> </ul>

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Grade 8 Writing Word Choice – Score Point 1

**Writing**

**DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

**FINAL COPY**

I wanted to be class president because I  
could work good and follow all directions. I  
can also be a good example. I can be Respectful  
to others. I can stay out of trouble and don't  
get L.T.D or L.D..

**Score point 1 --** Writing shows extremely limited vocabulary. Only the most general kind of message is communicated. The writer used “I can (could...)” four times in five sentences.

**Writing**

**DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

**FINAL COPY**

TO BE CLASS PRESIDENT I WOULD  
CON KIDS INTO VOTING FOR  
ME. I WOULD TRY MY  
HARDEST TO BE PRESIDENT. I WOULD  
BE NICE AND GIVE GOOD SPEECHES  
TO MY VOTERS. I WOULD TRY  
TO GET MORE CLASS PARTIES  
AND OTHER KINDS OF FUN STUFF.  
ALSO I WOULD TRY TO  
GET MORE FIELD TRIPS FOR  
OUR CLASS. I WILL DO MY  
BEST TO BE YOUR CLASS PRESIDENT.

**Score point 2 --** Writing is repetitive and uses words that are colorless, flat, and imprecise such as “stuff,” “try,” “nice,” and “kinds.” Writer relies on worn expressions such as “try my hardest” and “do my best.”

**Writing****DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

Here are some good reason why I would make a good class president. I would make a good president for your school because I will do what your school wants on the school. I will make school shorter and don't haft to come to school on Monday or Friday. I will make the kids learn some stuff and help them with it. School is a good thing because it helps you get ready for a job and learn how to count money like at stores. I would like to be a class president because I think I'm the right person for it and will do a good job at it. The students will love to have me as school president because I would give them more field trips and more dances too. The girls would like me too because I would let them wear what they want to wear to school and not have rules. I would let them not have a 9th hour and don't haft to do there homework. But if they get in trouble I would make them a class and they would need to stay in there for a whole day

**Writing**

**FINAL COPY**

for a week and do work. These are all of the reasons why I would be a great class president, and the students will like me. So vote for me and I would make your life better and help you in school all the time. Pick me and I would change the school the way you are controllable and the way you like it so get the clue and "Vote for me"

**Score point 3 --** Language is quite ordinary, lacking precision and variety. The writer produces a "generic" paper filled with familiar words and phrases. Words are accurate for the most part, and the use of "...so get the clue..." shows promise of better choices.



**Writing****DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

Class president is one of the great things about grade school & high school. I am \_\_\_\_\_ I am in the eighth grade & I am running for class president for the years 2003 and 2004. I think that I would be the best choice for class president because I am very organized, I have good leadership skills, and I believe that I deserve it.

A class president has to be organized. I am very organized. Some call me a perfectionist because everything that I do has to be perfect. I can also keep track of things and keep them in order. Important papers are never a hassle to find, they are always kept together and placed in a certain spot. In addition to all of this, I only keep track of the facts, I am not a pack rat, and I always plan ahead. Inasmuch as I am organized there are other great traits about me.

Leadership is an important part of being a president. I feel that I uphold these skills. In many ways, I have experienced being a leader. I was captain of a cheer squad for two years and captain of a basketball team for one. I take charge & try to be at school events as much as possible. I have tons of school spirit and I love supporting my school. Also I am very loud and am able to get people's attention easily. Moreover I believe that I deserve this position as class president.

To deserve something you have to earn it. I feel that I have earned this position in many ways. I have been at \_\_\_\_\_

**Writing****FINAL COPY**

since the second grade and I have been waiting for the opportunity to show that I am proud of it. I get straight A's with a four point zero grade point average. I work hard and I am committed, once I start something I need to finish it. Plus, I love to help others in all ways possible. To get to the point, I believe that I would be a good choice for class president.

Class president comes with a lot of responsibilities and traits. There is a mass amount of commitment that needs to be made. Dedication, time, and responsibility are what a class president needs to have. I feel that I have what it takes to be class president for this year. So vote me, as your 2003 and 2004 class president.

**Score point 4 --** The writer employs a variety of words that are functional and appropriate to audience and purpose. The writing has some fine moments: "...a perfectionist...", "...not a pack rat...", "Inasmuch...", and "...take charge..."





**Writing****DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

When people think of the President of the United States, they often think of someone they admire. They think of someone who listens and speaks for the people. Someone who will care for us, and not let our voices go unnoticed. Well, I believe a class president should be no different. I believe that I will make a fantastic class president and get the job done successfully. I will look at your views and ideas and take them to the student council. Some reasons that I believe I will be a great class president are as follows: I will look at things from your perspective, I always try hard in school, and I love to help lead others.

One thing that I absolutely guarantee, and have formerly stated, is that I won't let your voices be drowned in a crowd. I know what it's like to have a leader, and (more often than not) I would wish they would see things from my perspective. What I promise, is to be sure to look at my decisions from your view and be sure to do what best for the school.

I've always given 100% in school, and promise to give 110% for all of you. Having been in excruciating classes all my life, I know how to give that extra jolt of enthusiasm. I am an above average student, and never give up on anything.

**Writing****FINAL COPY**

Leading people has always been a joyful passion and I know that every person is different and has different needs. I am treasurer in Vivace Vocalists and was in student council during my elementary days. To this day, I find myself helping others in many different areas and being able to help my school would be an honor.

All in all, I know that will make an awesome class president. Even the small calls in the night have voices that need a sound. So vote for me and I promise a great school for you all. So vote for me. Have a great day!

**Score point 5 --** Writing is clear with precise word choice that is natural and appropriate for audience and purpose. Word choices energize the writing. Words evoke clear images. The writer promises "...that extra jolt of enthusiasm..." and assure readers that "Even the small calls in the night have voices that need a sound."



**Writing****DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

Hellow, fellow students. I am writing this essay to solve your election problem. Are you having trouble choosing the best candidate? Its simple, choose me!

I am sure that you are wondering why I suppose I'm the most realid choice. The answer is because I am a plain student that would like to affect his school in a positive matter. I am inconsequential right now, but if elected, I will try my hardest to make a world of difference.

The recent budget crisis in Arizona has forced many schools to shift their funding around. As a result, some programs are dwindling and will soon cease to exist if no action is taken. I can help return some of the former money to neglected sports teams, clubs, classes, and programs. I can also grant permission to fundraise for things that sorely need it.

If an unjust case involving breaking school rules involves, my council and I will review the case carefully and come to a just decision. As I'm sure you know, the justice system isn't perfect, so I would like to fix that as much as possible.

Most importantly, it is sometimes hard to have your voice heard in our huge school. I promise to always have time for your comments, and put the people before the

**Writing**

**FINAL COPY**

position. If there is something that I can do to help, then I will.

To reiterate, I am here to be your voice. I am not your ruler, nor your teacher. I am your peer who would like to make a better, improved school. So, if you want to be represented by somebody who knows you, thinks like you, and cares about you, I'm your man.

Remember, with your help, I hope to make a difference for the better.

**Score point 6 --** Paper is energized with exceptionally interesting, precise, and natural words that are appropriate for purpose and audience. Vocabulary is striking and varied with fresh, original expression. Words such as “dwindling,” “sorely,” “inconsequential,” and “reiterate” demonstrate an excellent command of vocabulary use.

